

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2002

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, Chairman
The Honorable David R. Obey, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to urge you to include \$379.7 million to fully fund the Department of Energy's (DOE's) security needs in the supplemental appropriations bill. This figure represents the request DOE made to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), although OMB failed to include most of these funds in its submission to Congress. We agree with DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham that "failure to support these urgent security requirements is a risk that would be unwise."

Ten DOE sites, some of which are located in urban areas such as Denver Colorado and the Bay Area of California, reportedly contain enough weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium to build a crude atomic bomb. In addition, the DOE Transportation Security Division regularly transports nuclear weapons materials from site to site within the DOE complex. From recent admissions made by Osama Bin Laden's operatives to diagrams of nuclear reactors found in caves of Afghanistan, we know that terrorists are intent on building dirty bombs or homemade nuclear weapons.

On March 14, 2002, DOE Secretary Abraham sent a letter to OMB Director Mitchell Daniels, requesting an additional \$379.7 million (Attachment 1) to increase security at DOE sites. The letter stated that DOE is "unable to meet the next round of critical security mission requirements," and that the funds requested were a "critical down payment to the safety and security of our Nation and its people." The funds would have been used to increase the security of transportation of nuclear weapons, install explosives detection equipment, hire and better equip additional security guards, enhance security barriers and alarm systems at the nuclear facilities, consolidate nuclear material so that fewer sites need to be protected, and increase cyber security.

Inexplicably, 93% of these funds was denied by the White House. According to a March 28, 2002 letter (Attachment 2) from Bruce M. Carnes of the Chief Financial Officer's office at DOE to Mr. Marcus Peacock at OMB, OMB did not give the DOE the opportunity to discuss its concerns prior to being refused the additional funds. The letter also stated that DOE is "not operating, nor can it operate, under the pre-September 11 Design Basis Threat. Until that is revised, we must operate under Interim Implementing Guidance, and you have not provided resources to enable us to do so."

We are stunned by the apparent failure of the White House Office of Management and Budget to provide sufficient resources to adequately protect this country's nuclear weapons facilities from terrorist attacks. We urge you to ensure that these vital funds are included in the Supplemental Appropriations bill so that these sites are protected. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ed Markey

Edward J. Markey

Martin Frost

Martin Frost

Henry A. Waxman

Henry A. Waxman

Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez

Shelley Berkley

Shelley Berkley

Nydia M. Velazquez

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Dale E. Kildee

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Tammy Baldwin

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Tom Lantos

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Tom Barrett

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Jim McDermott

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John F. Tierney

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Richard E. Neal

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Jerry F. Costello

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Jane Harman

Jane Harman

Harold Ford, Jr.

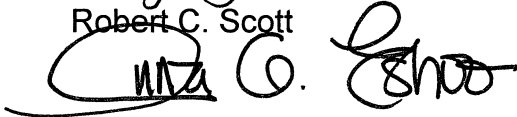
Harold Ford, Jr.



Anibal Acevedo-Vilá



Robert C. Scott



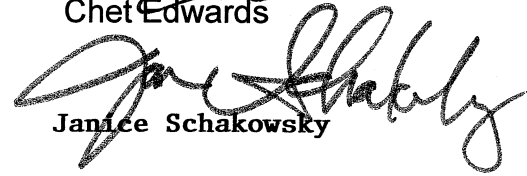
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